

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01166 141727Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 NEAE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 AF-10

EUR-25 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /172 W  
----- 028216

P 141422Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 835

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1166

FOR ATHERTON FROM SCOTES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY

SUBJ: ARTICLE IN BEIRUT DAILY STAR RE SYRIAN VIEWS ON  
PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. BELOW IS AN INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE THURSDAY, JUNE 13, ISSUE OF THE BEIRUT DAILY STAR. ALTHOUGH THE "SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL" IS NOT NAMED HIS COMMENTS IN MY OPINION GIVE A FAIRLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF HOW OFFICIAL SYRIANS AT LEAST VIEW THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. UPON A CAREFUL READING OF IT, I BELIEVE THE ARTICLE RINGS TRUE AND IS WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION AS WELL AS THAT OF THE SECRETARY.

2. QTE: DAMASCUS, JUNE 12 -- SYRIA IS NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING SPECIFIC FROM THE NIXON VISIT, SAID A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HERE WEDNESDAY.

3. QTE: "IT WILL NOT BE LIKE THE KISSINGER TRIP. FOR US, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A DIALOGUE, TO SOUND OUR ASPIRATIONS AND OUR HOPES SO THAT THE AMERICANS REALIZE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01166 141727Z

THAT THERE IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A TRUE ARAB-AMERICAN

FRIENDSHIP", HE SAID.

4. QTE: IT WAS MUCH BETTER THAT SYRIA DIDN'T RELY ON ONE SOURCE ALONE, AND IT WAS IN SYRIA'S INTEREST TO DIVERSIFY.

5. QTE: "BUT WHEN WE OPENED THE DOOR TO THE WEST, WE ARE NOT GOING TO CLOSE IT TO THE EAST. WE THINK IT IS MUCH BETTER FOR OUR SOCIETY TO HEAR FROM BOTH SIDES - AND TO LEARN FROM BOTH SIDES."

6. QTE: AMERICA, AS A SUPERPOWER, CANNOT BE ABSENT FROM THE AREA "ALTHOUGH GEOGRAPHICALLY THE UNITED STATES IS FAR FROM US THE FRIENDSHIP IS VERY NECESSARY NOT ONLY JUST FOR SYRIA'S INTERESTS BUT ALSO FOR AMERICA'S TOO. AND MORE IMPORTANT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

7. QTE: ASKED HOW THE SYRIANS REGARD AMERICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO ISRAEL, THE OFFICIAL SAID THIS COULD BE "A LEVERAGE. WOULD THE U.S. HAVE ANY MEANS TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL IF SHE STOPPED PROVIDING IT WITH MATERIALS AS SHE NOW DOES?

8. QTE: "THIS IS THE LEVERAGE THAT AMERICA CAN USE." IF THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT BEEN EVENHANDED IN ITS POLICY, THEN THE DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REACHED.

9. DISENGAGEMENT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP, BECAUSE BY REACHING THIS AGREEMENT, IT MEANS THAT THE DOOR ALREADY IS OPENED.

10. QTE: NOTHING OFFICIALLY HAS BEEN SAID YET ON THE PROJECTED \$100 MILLION GRANT WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY NIXON. "ANYWAY, IT IS NOT SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT, SYRIA CAN GET ECONOMIC AID FROM OTHER SOURCES, FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND IF WE FOLLOW A MORE BALANCED ATTITUDE, THEN THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF MONEY. I THINK THIS DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. WILL BRING BACK THE CONFIDENCE THE FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE LOOKING FOR," HE SAID.

11. QTE: "THE AMOUNT OF \$100 MILLION MAY BE AS A GESTURE FROM AMERICA. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE NIXON

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01166 141727Z

ADMINISTRATION TO ASK FOR GENEROSITY FOR SYRIA AT THIS STAGE. THE LOW-KEY APPROACH, HOWEVER, MIGHT MEET WITH MORE RESPONSE FROM A U.S. CONGRESS."

12. QTE: "BUT I BELIEVE THERE IS ENOUGH MATURITY ON BOTH SIDES NOW, IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A REAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND THE AMERICANS, THEN THIS NEW MARRIAGE IS DIVORCE-PROOF. I DON'T THINK THE AMERICANS WILL TRY TO

IMPOSE THEIR OUTLOOK AND IDEOLOGY ON US. AND FOR OUR PART,  
WE WILL NOT TAKE THE ATTITUDE THAT EVERYTHING AMERICAN IS TO  
BE HATED AND REFUSED."

13. QTE: REFERRING TO THE INHERENT DIFFICULTIES ON U.N.  
RESOLUTION 242 THE OFFICIAL SAID HE BELIEVED WHAT WAS  
REQUIRED WAS "A NEW LINGUISTIC DEFINITION," NEITHER SYRIA  
NOR EGYPT HAVE SAID THEY ARE GOING TO GENEVA UNDER 242 "WE  
HAVE MENTIONED 338. THEY WILL NOT LOSE ANYTHING BY CHANGING  
THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION SO AS TO GIVE THE PALESTINIANS  
AN ACCEPTABLE ROLE. AFTER ALL, THEY ARE A PEOPLE AND SHOULD  
BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH." UNQTE.  
SCOTES

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DAMASC01166  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740155-0144  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740645/aaaabmqd.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 OCT 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 OCT 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARTICLE IN BEIRUT DAILY STAR RE SYRIAN VIEWS ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, IS, EG, US, (NIXON, RICHARD M)  
**To:** JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005